

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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R 081257Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8869

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CURRENT SPATE OF INCIDENTS, ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS

REF: A. USDAO ADDIS ABABA 0170 APR 76, B. USDAO ADDIS ABABA
0159 APR 76, C. USDAO ADDIS ABABA 0155 MARCH 76,
D. ADDIS ABABA 3951, E. ADDIS ABABA 4038, F. ADDIS
ABABA 4203

SUMMARY: UNSETTLED ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL SCENE CONTINUES TO
GIVE RISE TO INCIDENTS, LATEST SPATE OF WHICH ARE LISTED IN
THIS MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOWS LISTING OF SOME RECENT EXECUTIONS, INCI-
DENTS AND ARRESTS OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN REFERENCES:

A. APRIL 7 ADDIS ZEMEN REPORTS THAT THREE REACTIONARY
OUTLAWS WERE KILLED AND 37 CAPTURED NEAR GONDAR.

B. APRIL 6 ETHIOPIAN HERALD RREPORTS THAT MASSAWA
CEMENT FACTORY AND ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION STATION WERE
"DAMAGED BY BANDITS." EXTENT OF DAMAGE ESTIMATED IN ENA
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STORY AT ONE-QUARTER MILLION ETHIOPIAN DOLLARS.

C. SAME PAPER REPORTS EXECUTION OF FOUR AND JAILING OF TWELVE WHO PARTICIPATED IN ATTACK ON ASSAB REFINERY LAST NOV. 28, FOLLOWING THEIR TRIAL BY SPECIAL GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL.

D. ON APRIL 5 EMBOFFS WITNESSED DEMONSTRATION BY ESTIMATED 300-PLUS STUDENTS IN DOWNTOWN ADDIS AT MID-MORNING. DEMONSTRATION WAS ANTI-DIRG AND WAS DISPERSED BY TWO OVERHEAD BURSTS FROM SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPON BY POLICE. STUDENTS HAD PARADED THROUGH DOWNTOWN ADDIS FOR PERHAPS ONE-HALF FOUR BEFORE THEY WERE DISPERSED.

E. ON MARCH 30 AND 31 MILITARY SOURCE REPORTED "SERIOUS" FIGHTING ON ETHIO-SOMALI BORDER NEAR MUSTAHIL AND DOLO. SOURCE ASSERTED THAT ETHIOPIAN ARMY BELIEVES IT IS FIGHTING SOMALIS BUT LATTER COUNTERCHARGING THAT INSURGENTS/INFILTRATORS ARE MEMBERS OF OROMO LIBERATION FRONT. SAME SOURCE CONTENDS THAT OROMO LIBERATION FRONT HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MOGADISCIO. EUROPEANS WHO RECENTLY VISITED EL KERE AND TOLO STATE THAT THEY WERE SHOWN BODIES OF ETHIOPIANS WHO WERE KILLED BY "SOMALIS IN UNIFORM" IN ABOVE INCURSION. SOURCES WERE ALSO SHOWN CAPTURED WEAPONS BELIEVED TO BE OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE. ETHIOPIANS ASSERTED TO OUR INFORMANTS THAT THEY WERE PREPARING FOR WAR AND HAD IMMEDIATELY MOVED TWO HUNDRED AIRBORNE TROOPERS INTO EL KERE TO PREPARE TO COUNTER NEXT INCURSION. COMMENT: DEPT WILL BE AWARE THAT SMALL CLASHES BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN/MILITARY/IRREGULAR FORCES AND INFILTRATORS CURRENTLY BEING REPORTED FROM WEST OF DOLO, ON SOMALI BORDER ALL THE WAY "TO AREA SOUTH OF KELAFO." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO GROWING FEELING WITHIN DIRG/EPMG THAT GS DR IS BENT ON WAR WITH ETHIOPIA, PERHAPS SOON (CF REF. A). END COMMENT.

F. ON MARCH 31 SPOUSE OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES (EAL) PILOT ASSOCIATION LEADER TOLD EMBOFF THAT POPULAR EAL PILOT CAPTAIN JAFFIR AND AN UNIDENTIFIED FLIGHT ENGINEER HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED, CHARGES UNKNOWN. JAFFIR IDENTIFIED

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AS MEMBER OF TWA-TRAINED GROUP AT EAL AND THORN-IN-SIDE OF AIRFORCE-TRAINED GROUP ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF HIS INSISTENCE THAT HIGH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS BE PRESERVED. SOURCE WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE WHATEVER HER HUSBAND NOW DID TO LOWER TENSIONS WITHIN EAL LIKELY TO BE HELD AGAINST HIM BY ONE FACTION OR THE OTHER. ACCORDING OTHER SOURCES JAFFIR WAS ONE OF TWO EAL PILOTS AND TWO EAF OFFICERS ARRESTED THAT DAY, ALLEGEDLY WITH 93 OTHER PERSONS.

COMENT: AMCIT SOURCE IN EAL TOLD US APRIL 5 THAT MORALE
WITHIN EAL VERY POOR; MAINTENANCE STANDARDS ARE NOT RPT
NOT BEING KEPT UP AND LAST THREE TWA-AMERICANS EXPECT TO
LEAVE AIRLINE IN JULY. END COMMENT.

G. ON MARCH 30 EDU POSTERS REPORTEDLY TOUTING GEN.
NEGA TEGEGNE APPEARED IN ADDIS MERCATO. SMALL GROUPS
OF LEADERS SEEN BEING DISPERSED BY POLICE.

H. ON MARCH 25 NAMRU OFFICER WITNESSED ARREST FOR
UNKNOWN REASON OF TWENTY CIVILIANS NEAR SALT FACTORY IN
ADDIS. POLICE MARCHED PRISONERS AWAY UNDER EYES OF
PASSIVE WATCHING CROWD.

I. MARCH 22 AMCIT CATHOLIC FATHER ED SHULMAN ARRIVED IN ADDIS
FROM LEKEMPT. HE INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT HE AND
ONE PCV HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF CIA CONNECTIONS AND THREATEN-
ED WITH STONING BY STUDENTS IN LEKEMPT. PCV WHO HAS
SINCE RETURNED TO HIS POST REPORTS TOWN HAS QUIETED
DOEN.

J. MARCH 17 RELIABLE AFAR SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT
25 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN DESSIE "PREVIOUS WEEK," ON
SUSPICION OF MIDDLE-CLASS LEANINGS. A NUMBER OF
"CAPITALISTS" ALSO SEIZED IN NAZARETH.
HUMMEL

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